

WASHINGTON (May 5) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today announced a fire grant in the amount of \$272,510 for a regional communications project linking the Pelham Fire Department, North Shelby Fire District, Chelsea Fire Department, and Helena Fire Department.

“This major communications project will help improve efficiency and enhance fire protection throughout the entire region served by these four departments. Neighboring fire companies rely on each other for support, so it’s essential that they are able to communicate quickly and clearly. It is a tribute to the Pelham Fire Department, North Shelby Fire District, Chelsea Fire Department and Helena Fire Department that they came together to propose a joint project with very strong credentials. Residents in the area will be better protected as a result of their excellent cooperation,” Bachus said.

The regional grant will help the four fire departments upgrade and coordinate their communications systems, according to Pelham Fire Department Chief Danny Ray.

“These funds will be used to purchase portable radios, repeaters, antennas, and computer equipment to enhance the interoperability of our communications. Computer and mobile data uploads are becoming especially important for fire and rescue calls. Our departments work closely together, so having this enhanced equipment will help all of us. We are very happy to receive this grant,” said Chief Ray.

The Operations and Safety Grant was awarded under the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) program. The program is used to meet the firefighting and emergency needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated medical services organizations. Only the applications most closely conforming to program priorities are considered and scored by peer review panels.

The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

